

MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER

WINTER IS OFF TO A MILD, WARM START

(The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators)

BENTON: Should not be concerned for winter survival of alfalfa at this point in time, with 3-4" of snow. Farmers should check grain bins regularly.

CASS: Livestock are in good condition with feed in good supply. Soil moisture is low. Pasture is in fair condition. Some cattle grazed into the middle of December.

CHISAGO: To date, weather conditions have been mild with minimum snow cover.

COTTONWOOD: The fall was excellent. Harvest was completed, tillage done and fall fertilizer applied. Producers are concerned about moisture conditions going into spring planting. Feed supplies are plentiful and livestock feeding and gains are excellent.

LE SUEUR: With the mild weather we have been having the crops are all harvested. Also with mild weather, the cattle and hogs are doing very well. No shortage of feed at this time.

MAHNOMEN: Has been a mild winter. Feed usage has been light for cattle producers. Little snow covers the ground.

MCLEOD: There is starting to be concern about the lack of cover for alfalfa. Hay is going for \$1.00-\$1.50 a bale. Much is under \$75.00 per ton.

NORMAN: The mild fall and open winter has some producers concerned about alfalfa, and winter wheat. Livestock producers have enjoyed a mild winter so far and very little snow. Some soil erosion has occurred this winter.

RED LAKE: The winter has been mild so far. Many fields without stubble have only a dusting of snow as of January 10, 2000.

ROCK: Rock county is experiencing one of the mildest winters on record. We have no snow cover and livestock are in excellent condition. We are, however, concerned about the prospects of an extremely dry spring and possible winter kill to alfalfa, depending upon conditions. This has resulted in a modest increase in hay prices.

ROSEAU: Lack of snow cover is causing a concern for winter wheat because of potential winter kill. The mild winter is good for livestock operators and feed supplies are adequate but forage quality is of concern.

STEVENS: All crops are harvested and land is tilled. Livestock are doing well with most feed lots full. Feed availability is high.

TRAVERSE: All corn was harvested in the county and the mild, dry fall allowed farmers to complete tillage and clean drainage systems. It has been a number of years since the area has had an extended fall. The mild winter has left livestock in good condition and feed supplies adequate. Some concern on how alfalfa will come out of dormancy with the lack of snow cover.

YELLOW MEDICINE: Ideal winter for livestock, but has resulted in low hay prices. Farmers are expressing concern about low soil moisture levels and a few are considering planting wheat for the first time in 10-15 years.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1999

Temperatures during December averaged from 6.3 degrees above normal in the Southeast District to 12.0 degrees above normal in the Northwest District. Temperature extremes included a low of -22 degrees at International Falls and a high of 61 degrees at Montevideo. Average precipitation ranged from 0.16 inch in the Northeast District to 0.65 inch in the South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 0.83 inch was recorded in Waseca.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for December, 1999

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Mnth Ave	Dept. for Mnth	Mnth Total	Dept. for Mnth
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
CROOKSTON	50	-18	21.0	12.4	.44	-.06
MDORHEAD	52	-15	22.9	11.3	.45	-.20
WARROAD	48	-18	18.6	12.4	.57	-.04
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
GRAND RAPIDS	50	-16	20.3	9.4	.24	-.75
INTL. FALLS	47	-22	17.6	10.4	.18	-.66
ITASCA	49	-20	19.1	10.1	.45	-.55
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
DULUTH	46	-15	19.7	6.9	.23	-1.01
GRAND MARAIS	45M	16M	25.1M	6.3M	.04M	1.04M
HIBBING	45	-17	18.2	8.1	.21	-.51
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
ALEXANDRIA	50	-17	21.8	8.5	.07	-.63
BROWNS VALLEY	58	-12	24.6	11.3	.34	-.20
CANBY	53M	12M	24.8M	8.7M	.73M	-.10M
FERGUS FALLS	54	-11	22.4	10.6	.18	-.48
MONTVIDEO	61	-14	24.0	8.5	0	-.88
MORRIS	57	-17	23.2	9.7	.32	-.38
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
BECKER	54	-11	23.8	9.7	.32	-.63
HUTCHINSON	55	-10	23.8	8.6	.14	-.69
ST. CLOUD	52	-15	22.4	8.3	.13	-.70
STAPLES	54	-19	20.2	8.5	.25	-.54
WILLMAR	55	-13	24.0	10.0	.22	-.62
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
AITKIN	48	-14	22.6	10.6	.34	-.60
CAMBRIDGE	49	-18	20.8	5.8	.17	-.80
MSP AIRPORT	53	-8	25.6	7.7	.33	-.75
ST. PAUL - UOFM	53	-9	26.2	6.2	.26	-.84
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
LAMBERTON	58	-15	24.7	8.2	.03	-.65
PIPESTONE	50	-17	23.2	7.8	.34	-.38
REDWOOD FALLS	60	-13	25.6	8.2	.34	-.35
WORTHINGTON	53	-9	24.4	7.6	.22	-.62
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
FARIBAULT	51	-16	23.3	6.8	.49	-.65
WASECA	49	-18	22.8	6.9	.83	-.49
WINNEBAGO	53	-15	24.0	7.2	.63	-.51
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
PRESTON	49M	17M	17.6M	-.0M	.47	-.83
RED WING	59	-13	24.7	9.8	.18	-1.08
ROCHESTER	49	-13	23.6	6.4	.49	-.54
ROSEMUNT	52	-16	25.1	7.8	.54	-.69
WINONA	52	-4	26.0	6.9	.36	-.72

m=some data missing

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